

For immediate release

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Eastern Maine's first-ever Rock Paper Scissors tournament will raise money for Maine's veterans

Machias - Inspired by the veterans in their lives and their Washington County communities, two young men from Machias have created a fun way to support Maine's veterans — on Saturday, August 6, they'll host eastern Maine's first-ever **Rock Paper Scissors Tournament**, to support the work of the Bangor-based **Maine Veterans Project (MVP)**.

Organizers Tyler Matthews, 22, and Evan Kopf, 28, said MVP was an easy choice because of the work they do to provide home heating oil, home renovations, and outdoor recreation opportunities for 1,200 Maine veterans every year.

"I'm super excited for this event, for all the community support we have received, and I'm so proud that we are helping out a local organization and great people, through **Maine Veterans Project**," said **Kopf**. "We are hoping for a great turnout and lots of fun, and looking forward to being able to lend a hand!"

"Planning this event is something I will remember for the rest of my life. We hope to help as many people as possible and see as many happy faces show up as we can get!" said

Matthews. “It will be a great day, and we hope successful for the cause of supporting Maine’s veterans.”

The **August 6** event will be held on the grounds of UMaine Machias and will feature an elimination rock paper scissors tournament, an easy childhood game almost anyone can enjoy!

“Everybody thinks a fundraiser should be complex, but this one is so simple,” said **MVP Executive Director Shawn Goodwin**. “Not only that, but it’s fun, and everybody knows how to do it.”

Veterans are near and dear to the hearts of Washington County residents because, despite its small population, Washington County has the highest number of veterans per capita in Maine, at 11.9 percent, tied with Sagadahoc County. Washington County is also home to the state’s newest national cemetery, Acadia National Cemetery in Jonesboro, Wreaths Across America in Columbia Falls, and Machias is home to one of only six veterans homes in the state. Many Washington County towns, like Cherryfield, Machias, and Lubec, also enjoy the contributions of thriving American Legion posts.

The **Rock Paper Scissors** event will feature a silent auction with notable donations from the Boston Red Sox, Maine humorist Tim Sample, Bad Little Brewing Company, Bangor Cinemas 10, Dicks Sporting Goods, US Cellular, The Crows Nest, and Pineo’s True Value. There will also be a vendor showcase highlighting the work of many Maine veteran organizations, including MVP, the Bureau of Veteran Affairs, Arise Addiction Recovery, The American Legion, Healthy Acadia, and the Veteran Center on Odlin Street. McDonald’s Machias and the local Girl Scouts will also be on hand with refreshments.

One hundred percent of the money donated to the event through its [GoFundMe page](#) and raised on Aug. 6 will go directly to Maine Veterans Project.

Maine Veterans Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with 1,200 Maine veterans each year to provide outdoor recreation activities, home improvement support, vehicle support, and home heating fuel, through a variety of generous partnerships, sponsorships, and donations.

RPS for Vets Rock Paper Scissors Tournament will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6, on the grounds of the University of Maine at Machias, 116 O’Brien Avenue, Machias, ME, 04654. For more information, visit the RPS for Vets [Facebook](#) page, and the Maine Veterans Project [website](#).

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Tyler Matthews, Evan Kopf, and Shawn Goodwin are available for interviews to promote this important and unusual event. You may also reach out to press contact Sarah Craighead Dedmon for additional information, 207-478-4378 or sarah_dedmon@yahoo.com



The Maine Veterans Project, founded by Washington County native and Navy veteran Shawn Goodwin, works with 1,200 Maine vets every year to provide vehicle assistance, heating fuel assistance, and opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation, as seen here through a partnership with Titan Athletics. Photo courtesy MVP



Evan Kopf and Tyler Matthews came up with the idea for eastern Maine's first Rock Paper Scissors Tournament while working together in Machias. "It's a good way to give back," said Matthews. Photo courtesy RPS for Vets